


INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2004CH006	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/IB2005/000407	International filing date (day/month/year) 17.02.2005	Priority date (day/month/year) 05.03.2004	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C07D251/68, D21H21/30			
Applicant CLARIANT INTERNATIONAL LTD			
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau a total of sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>			
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>			
Date of submission of the demand 15.12.2005		Date of completion of this report 20.02.2006	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016		Authorized Officer Songy, O Telephone No. +31 70 340-2345	



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
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International application No.
PCT/IB2005/000407

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

Description, Pages

1-9 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-10 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1 as originally filed

☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-10
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-10
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-10
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: WO 98/42685 A (CIBA GEIGY AG ; ROHRINGER PETER (CH); REINEHR DIETER (DE); METZGER GEO) 1 October 1998 (1998-10-01)

Novelty

The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1, and discloses an optical brightener which is the same as the optical brightener of formula (1) in claim 1 (see D1 example 9).

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known D1 in that the amount of optical brightener in the aqueous solution is higher than 0.214 mol/kg.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

Inventive step

The characteristic part of the subject-matter of claim 1 is the concentration of the optical brightener in the aqueous solution being higher than 0.214 mol/kg. However, the applicant does not provide any reason for the choice of this value, which appears to be arbitrary. The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as providing an alternative to the existing optical brightener solutions.

The solution proposed in claim 1 of the present application cannot be considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT), because the skilled person would consider different concentrations of optical brighteners as obvious solutions to this problem.

Thus the present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

The same reasoning applies, *mutatis mutandis*, to the subject-matter of independent claims 6 and 9, which therefore is also considered not inventive.

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(SEPARATE SHEET)**

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Dependent claims 2-5, 7, 8 and 10 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of inventive step.

Industrial applicability :

The subject-matter of claims 1-10 is considered to meet the requirements of Article 33(4) PCT.

Re Item VII

Certain defects in the international application

The document D1 has not been identified in the description and the relevant background art disclosed therein has not been briefly summarised in an objective way. Hence the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT are not fulfilled.